Guest Shell

About the Guest Shell

In addition to the NX-OS CLI and Bash access on the underlying Linux environment, switches support access to a decoupled execution space running within a Linux Container (LXC) called the “Guest Shell”.

From within the Guest Shell the network-admin has the following capabilities:

- Access to the network over Linux network interfaces.
- Access to the switch's bootflash.
- Access to the switch's volatile tmpfs.
- Access to the switch's CLI.
- Access to the switch's host file system.
- Access to Cisco NX-API REST.
- The ability to install and run python scripts.
- The ability to install and run 32-bit and 64-bit Linux applications.

Decoupling the execution space from the native host system allows customization of the Linux environment to suit the needs of the applications without impacting the host system or applications running in other Linux Containers.

On NX-OS devices, Linux Containers are installed and managed with the virtual-service commands. The Guest Shell will appear in the virtual-service show command output.

Guidelines and Limitations

Common Guidelines Across All Releases

Important If you have performed custom work inside your installation of the Guest Shell, save your changes to the bootflash, off-box storage, or elsewhere outside the Guest Shell root file system before performing a `guestshell upgrade`.

The `guestshell upgrade` command essentially performs a `guestshell destroy` and `guestshell enable` in succession.

- If you are running a third-party DHCPD server in Guest Shell, there might be issues with offers reaching the client if used along with SVI. A possible workaround is to use broadcast responses.
- Use the `run guestshell` CLI command to access the Guest Shell on the switch: The `run guestshell` command parallels the `run bash` command that is used to access the host shell. This command allows you to access the Guest Shell and get a Bash prompt or run a command within the context of the Guest Shell. The command uses password-less SSH to an available port on the localhost in the default network namespace.
- The `sshd` utility can secure the pre-configured SSH access into the Guest Shell by listening on `localhost` to avoid connection attempts from outside the network. The `sshd` has the following features:
  - It is configured for key-based authentication without fallback to passwords.
  - Only `root` can read keys use to access the Guest Shell after Guest Shell restarts.
  - Only `root` can read the file that contains the key on the host to prevent a nonprivileged user with host Bash access from being able to use the key to connect to the Guest Shell. Network-admin users may start another instance of sshd in the Guest Shell to allow remote access directly into the Guest Shell, but any user that logs into the Guest Shell is also given network-admin privilege.

Note Introduced in Guest Shell 2.2 (0.2), the key file is readable for whom the user account was created for.

In addition, the Guest Shell accounts are not automatically removed, and must be removed by the network administrator when no longer needed.

Guest Shell installations before 2.2 (0.2) will not dynamically create individual user accounts.

- Installing the Cisco NX-OS software release on a fresh out-of-the-box switch will automatically enable the Guest Shell. Subsequent upgrades to the switch software will not automatically upgrade Guest Shell.
- Guest Shell releases increment the major number when distributions or distribution versions change.
- Guest Shell releases increment the minor number when CVEs have been addressed. The Guest Shell updates CVEs only when CentOS makes them publicly available.
- Cisco recommends using **dnf update** to pick up third-party security vulnerability fixes directly from the CentOS repository. This provides the flexibility of getting updates as, and when, available without needing to wait for a Cisco NX-OS software update.

  Alternatively, using the **guestshell update** command would replace the existing Guest Shell rootfs. Any customizations and software package installations would then need to be performed again within the context of this new Guest Shell rootfs.

Guest Shell 3.0

Beginning with Jacksonville release 10.1(1), Guest Shell 3.0 is introduced with CentOS 8 software, as CentOS 7 which is packaged into Guest Shell 2.x has reached end of life. CentOS 8 also comes with python 3.6 and will replace the python 2.7 support in Guestshell 2.x. The functionality between Guest Shell 2.x and Guest Shell 3.0 remains the same. However, the internal implementation that varies is that Python 3.6 library of Guest Shell 3.0 replaces the Python 2.7 library of Guest Shell 2.x. This means `/usr/lib/python3.6` and `/usr/lib64/python3.6` libraries are used.

Note The rootfs size in Guestshell 3.0 is 220 MB versus the 170 MB in Guestshell 2.0.

Upgrading from Guest Shell 1.0 to Guest Shell 2.x

Guest Shell 2.x is based on a CentOS 7 root file system. If you have an off-box repository of `.conf` files or utilities that pulled the content down into Guest Shell 1.0, you must repeat the same deployment steps in Guest Shell 2.x. Your deployment script may need to be adjusted to account for the CentOS 7 differences.

Downgrading NX-OS from Jacksonville release with Guest Shell 3.0

Beginning with Jacksonville release 10.1(1), infrastructure version for Guest Shell 3.0 support is increased to 1.11 (check with show virtual-service command). Therefore, Guestshell 3.0 OVA cannot be used in previous releases. If used, the **Install all** command will validate version mismatch and throws an error. It is recommended to destroy Guest Shell 3.0 before downgrading to previous releases so that Guest Shell 3.0 does not come up in previous releases.

Guest Shell 2.x

The Cisco NX-OS automatically installs and enables the Guest Shell by default on systems with sufficient resources. However, if the device is reloaded with a Cisco NX-OS image that does not provide Guest Shell support, the installer will automatically remove the existing Guest Shell and issue a `%VMAN-2-INVALID_PACKAGE`.

Note Systems with 4 GB of RAM will not enable Guest Shell by default. Use the **guestshell enable** command to install and enable Guest Shell.

The **install all** command validates the compatibility between the current Cisco NX-OS image against the target Cisco NX-OS image.

The following is an example output from installing an incompatible image:

```
switch#
Installer will perform compatibility check first. Please wait.
uri is: /
2014 Aug 29 20:08:51 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-ACTIVATION_STATE:
Successfully activated virtual service 'guestshell+'
Verifying image bootflash:/n9kpregs.bin for boot variable "nxos".
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Verifying image type.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "bios" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "nxos" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Preparing "" version info using image bootflash:/.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
"Running-config contains configuration that is incompatible with the new image (strict
incompatibility).
Please run 'show incompatibility-all nxos <image>' command to find out which feature
needs to be disabled.".
Performing module support checks.
[####################] 100% -- SUCCESS
Notifying services about system upgrade.
[# ] 0% -- FAIL.
Return code 0x42DD0006 ((null)).
"Running-config contains configuration that is incompatible with the new image (strict
incompatibility).
Please run 'show incompatibility-all nxos <image>' command to find out
which feature needs to be disabled."
Service "vman" in vdc 1: Guest shell not supported, do 'guestshell destroy' to remove
it and then retry ISSU
Pre-upgrade check failed. Return code 0x42DD0006 ((null)).
switch#
```

Note As a best practice, remove the Guest Shell with the **guestshell destroy** command before reloading an older Cisco NX-OS image that does not support the Guest Shell.

Pre-Configured SSHD Service

The Guest Shell starts an OpenSSH server upon boot up. The server listens on a randomly generated port on the localhost IP address interface 127.0.0.1 only. This provides the password-less connectivity into the Guest

Shell from the NX-OS virtual-shell when the guestshell keyword is entered. If this server is killed or its configuration (residing in `/etc/ssh/sshd_config-cisco`) is altered, access to the Guest Shell from the NX-OS CLI might not work.

The following steps instantiate an OpenSSh server within the Guest Shell as root:

1. Determine which network namespace or VRF you want to establish your SSH connections through.
2. Determine the port that you want OpenSSH to listen on. Use the NX-OS command **show socket connection** to view ports already in use.

Note The Guest Shell sshd service for password-less access uses a randomized port starting at 17680 through 49150. To avoid port conflict, choose a port outside this range.

The following steps start the OpenSSH server. The examples start the OpenSSH server for management netns on IP address 10.122.84.34:2222:

1. Create the following files: `/usr/lib/systemd/systm/sshd-mgmt.service` and `/etc/ssh/sshd-mgmt_config`. The files should have the following configurations:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 394 Apr 7 14:21 /usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd-mgmt.service
-rw------- 1 root root 4478 Apr 7 14:22 /etc/ssh/sshd-mgmt_config
```

2. Copy the Unit and Service contents from the `/usr/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service` file to `sshd-mgmt.service`.
3. Edit the `sshd-mgmt.service` file to match the following:

```
[Unit]
Description=OpenSSH server daemon
After=network.target sshd-keygen.service
Wants=sshd-keygen.service

[Service]
EnvironmentFile=/etc/sysconfig/sshd
ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/sshd-keygen
ExecStart=/sbin/ip netns exec management /usr/sbin/sshd -f /etc/ssh/sshd-mgmt_config
-D $OPTIONS
ExecReload=/bin/kill -HUP $MAINPID
KillMode=process
Restart=on-failure
RestartSec=42s
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

4. Copy the contents of `/etc/ssh/sshd-config` to `/etc/ssh/sshd-mgmt_config`. Modify the ListenAddress IP and port as necessary.

```
Port 2222
ListenAddress 10.122.84.34
```

5. Start the systemctl daemon using the following commands:

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl start sshd-mgmt.service
sudo systemctl status sshd-mgmt.service -l
```

6. (Optional) Check the configuration.

```
ss -tnldp | grep 2222
```

7. SSH into Guest Shell:

```
ssh -p 2222 guestshell@10.122.84.34
```

8. Save the configuration across multiple Guest Shell or switch reboots.

```
sudo systemctl enable sshd-mgmt.service
```

9. For passwordless SSH/SCP and remote execution, generate the public and private keys for the user ID you want to user for SSH/SCP using the **ssh-keygen -t dsa** command.

   The key is then stored in the `id_rsa` and `id_rsa.pub` files in the `/.ssh` directory:

```
[root@node01 ~]# cd ~/.ssh
[root@node02 .ssh]# ls -l
total 8
-rw-------. 1 root root 1675 May 5 15:01 id_rsa
-rw-r--r--. 1 root root 406 May 5 15:01 id_rsa.pub
```

10. Copy the public key into the machine you want to SSH into and fix permissions:

```
cat id_rsa.pub >> /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
chmod 700 /root/.ssh
chmod 600 /root/.ssh/*
```

11. SSH or SCP into the remote switch without a password:

```
ssh -p <port#> userid@hostname [<remote command>]
scp -P <port#> userid@hostname/filepath /destination
```

localtime

The Guest Shell shares `/etc/localtime` with the host system.

Note If you do not want to share the same localtime with the host, this symlink can be broken and a Guest Shell specific `/etc/localtime` can be created.

```
switch(config)# clock timezone PDT -7 0
switch(config)# clock set 10:00:00 27 Jan 2017
Fri Jan 27 10:00:00 PDT 2017
switch(config)# show clock
10:00:07.554 PDT Fri Jan 27 2017
switch(config)# run guestshell
guestshell:~$ date
Fri Jan 27 10:00:12 PDT 2017
```

Accessing the Guest Shell

In Cisco NX-OS, only network-admin users can access the Guest Shell by default. It is automatically enabled in the system and can be accessed using the **run guestshell** command. Consistent with the **run bash** command, these commands can be issued within the Guest Shell with the **run guestshell** *command* form of the NX-OS CLI command.

Note The Guest Shell is automatically enabled on systems with more than 4 GB of RAM.

```
switch# run guestshell ls -al /bootflash/*.ova
-rw-rw-rw- 1 2002 503 83814400 Aug 21 18:04 /bootflash/pup.ova
-rw-rw-rw- 1 2002 503 40724480 Apr 15 2012 /bootflash/red.ova
```

Note The Guest Shell starting in 2.2(0.2) will dynamically create user accounts with the same as the user logged into switch. However, all other information is NOT shared between the switch and the Guest Shell user accounts.

In addition, the Guest Shell accounts are not automatically removed, and must be removed by the network administrator when no longer needed.

Resources Used for the Guest Shell

By default, the resources for the Guest Shell have a small impact on resources available for normal switch operations. If the network-admin requires additional resources for the Guest Shell, the **guestshell resize** {*cpu* | *memory* | *rootfs*} command changes these limits.

Resource	Default	Minimum/Maximum
CPU	1%	1/%
Memory	400 MB	256/3840 MB
Storage	200 MB	200/2000 MB

The CPU limit is the percentage of the system compute capacity that tasks running within the Guest Shell are given when there is contention with other compute loads in the system. When there is no contention for CPU resources, the tasks within the Guest Shell are not limited.

Note A Guest Shell reboot is required after changing the resource allocations. This can be accomplished with the **guestshell reboot** command.

Capabilities in the Guestshell

The Guestshell has a number of utilities and capabilities available by default.

The Guestshell is populated with CentOS 7 Linux which provides the ability to yum install software packages built for this distribution. The Guestshell is pre-populated with many of the common tools that would naturally be expected on a networking device including **net-tools**, **iproute**, **tcpdump** and OpenSSH. For Guestshell 2.x, python 2.7.5 is included by default as is the PIP for installing additional python packages. In Guestshell 2.11, by default, python 3.6 is also included.

By default the Guestshell is a 64-bit execution space. If 32-bit support is needed, the glibc.i686 package can be yum installed.

The Guestshell has access to the Linux network interfaces used to represent the management and data ports of the switch. Typical Linux methods and utilities like **ifconfig** and **ethtool** can be used to collect counters. When an interface is placed into a VRF in the NX-OS CLI, the Linux network interface is placed into a network namespace for that VRF. The name spaces can be seen at `/var/run/netns` and the **ip netns** utility can be used to run in the context of different namespaces. A couple of utilities, **chvrf** and **vrfinfo**, are provided as a convenience for running in a different namespace and getting information about which namespace/vrf a process is running in.

systemd is used to manage services in CentOS 8 environments, including the Guestshell.

NX-OS CLI in the Guest Shell

The Guest Shell provides an application to allow the user to issue NX-OS commands from the Guest Shell environment to the host network element. The **dohost** application accepts any valid NX-OS configuration or exec commands and issues them to the host network element.

When invoking the **dohost** command each NX-OS command may be in single or double quotes:

```
dohost "<NXOS CLI>"
```

The NX-OS CLI can be chained together:

```
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ dohost "sh lldp time | in Hold" "show cdp global"
Holdtime in seconds: 120
Global CDP information:
CDP enabled globally
Refresh time is 21 seconds
Hold time is 180 seconds
CDPv2 advertisements is enabled
DeviceID TLV in System-Name(Default) Format
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$
```

The NX-OS CLI can also be chained together using the NX-OS style command chaining technique by adding a semicolon between each command. (A space on either side of the semicolon is required.):

```
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ dohost "conf t ; cdp timer 13 ; show run | inc cdp"
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
cdp timer 13
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$
```

Note Guest Shell 2.2 (0.2), commands issued on the host through the **dohost** command are run with privileges based on the effective role of the Guest Shell user.

Prior versions of Guest Shell will run command with network-admin level privileges.

The **dohost** command fails when the number of UDS connections to NX-API are at the maximum allowed.

Network Access in Guest Shell

The NX-OS switch ports are represented in the Guest Shell as Linux network interfaces. Typical Linux methods like view stats in /proc/net/dev, through ifconfig or ethtool are all supported:

The Guest Shell has a number of typical network utilities included by default and they can be used on different VRFs using the **chvrf** *vrf command* command.

```
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ ifconfig Eth1-47
Eth1-47: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
inet 13.0.0.47 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 13.0.0.255
ether 54:7f:ee:8e:27:bc txqueuelen 100 (Ethernet)
RX packets 311442 bytes 21703008 (20.6 MiB)
RX errors 0 dropped 185 overruns 0 frame 0
TX packets 12967 bytes 3023575 (2.8 MiB)
TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Within the Guest Shell, the networking state can be monitored, but may not be changed. To change networking state, use the NX-OS CLI or the appropriate Linux utilities in the host bash shell.

The **tcpdump** command is packaged with the Guest Shell to allow packet tracing of punted traffic on the management or switch ports.

The **sudo ip netns exec management ping** utility is a common method for running a command in the context of a specified network namespace. This can be done within the Guest Shell:

```
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ sudo ip netns exec management ping 10.28.38.48
PING 10.28.38.48 (10.28.38.48) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.28.38.48: icmp_seq=1 ttl=48 time=76.5 ms
```

The chvrf utility is provided as a convenience:

```
guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ chvrf management ping 10.28.38.48
PING 10.28.38.48 (10.28.38.48) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.28.38.48: icmp_seq=1 ttl=48 time=76.5 ms
```

Note Commands that are run without the **chvrf** command are run in the current VRF/network namespace.

For example, to ping IP address 10.0.0.1 over the management VRF, the command is "**chvrf** *management ping 10.0.0.1*". Other utilities such as **scp** or **ssh** would be similar.

Example:

```
switch# guestshell
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ cd /bootflash
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ chvrf management scp foo@10.28.38.48:/foo/index.html
index.html
foo@10.28.38.48's password:
index.html 100% 1804 1.8KB/s 00:00
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ ls -al index.html
-rw-r--r-- 1 guestshe users 1804 Sep 13 20:28 index.html
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ chvrf management curl cisco.com
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>301 Moved Permanently</title>
</head><body>
<h1>Moved Permanently</h1>
<p>The document has moved <a href="http://www.cisco.com/">here</a>.</p>
</body></html>
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$
```

To obtain a list of VRFs on the system, use the **show vrf** command natively from NX-OS or through the **dohost** command:

Example:

```
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ dohost 'sh vrf'
VRF-Name   VRF-ID  State     Reason
default    1       Up        --
management 2       Up        --
red        6       Up        --
```

Within the Guest Shell, the network namespaces associated with the VRFs are what is actually used. It can be more convenient to just see which network namespaces are present:

```
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$ ls /var/run/netns
default management red
[guestshell@guestshell bootflash]$
```

To resolve domain names from within the Guest Shell, the resolver needs to be configured. Edit the /etc/resolv.conf file in the Guest Shell to include a DNS nameserver and domain as appropriate for the network.

Example:

```
nameserver 10.1.1.1
domain cisco.com
```

The nameserver and domain information should match what is configured through the NX-OS configuration.

Example:

```
switch(config)# ip domain-name cisco.com
switch(config)# ip name-server 10.1.1.1
switch(config)# vrf context management
switch(config-vrf)# ip domain-name cisco.com
switch(config-vrf)# ip name-server 10.1.1.1
```

If the switch is in a network that uses an HTTP proxy server, the **http_proxy** and **https_proxy** environment variables must be set up within the Guest Shell also.

Example:

```
export http_proxy=http://proxy.esl.cisco.com:8080
export https_proxy=http://proxy.esl.cisco.com:8080
```

These environment variables should be set in the .bashrc file or in an appropriate script to ensure that they are persistent.

Access to Bootflash in Guest Shell

Network administrators can manage files with Linux commands and utilities in addition to using NX-OS CLI commands. By mounting the system bootflash at /bootflash in the Guest Shell environment, the network-admin can operate on these files with Linux commands.

Example:

```
find . -name "foo.txt"
rm "/bootflash/junk/foo.txt"
```

Python in Guest Shell

Python can be used interactively or python scripts can be run in the Guest Shell.

Example:

```
guestshell:~$ python
Python 2.7.5 (default, Jun 24 2015, 00:41:19)
[GCC 4.8.3 20140911 (Red Hat 4.8.3-9)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
guestshell:~$
```

The pip python package manager is included in the Guest Shell to allow the network-admin to install new python packages.

Example:

```
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ sudo su
[root@guestshell guestshell]# pip install Markdown
Collecting Markdown
Downloading Markdown-2.6.2-py2.py3-none-any.whl (157kB)
100% |################################| 159kB 1.8MB/s
Installing collected packages: Markdown
Successfully installed Markdown-2.6.2
[root@guestshell guestshell]# pip list | grep Markdown
Markdown (2.6.2)
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
```

Note You must enter the **sudo su** command before entering the **pip install** command.

Python 3 in Guest Shell versions up to 2.10 (CentOS 7)

Guest Shell 2.X provides a CentOS 7.1 environment, which does not have Python 3 installed by default. There are multiple methods of installing Python 3 on CentOS 7.1, such as using third-party repositories or building from source. Another option is using the Red Hat Software Collections, which supports installing multiple versions of Python within the same system.

To install the Red Hat Software Collections (SCL) tool:

1. Install the scl-utils package.
2. Enable the CentOS SCL repository and install one of its provided Python 3 RPMs.

```
[admin@guestshell ~]$ sudo su
[root@guestshell admin]# dnf install -y scl-utils | tail
Running transaction test
Transaction test succeeded
Running transaction
```

```
  Installing : scl-utils-20130529-19.el7.x86_64                             1/1
  Verifying  : scl-utils-20130529-19.el7.x86_64                             1/1

Installed:
  scl-utils.x86_64 0:20130529-19.el7

Complete!

[root@guestshell admin]# dnf install -y centos-release-scl | tail
  Verifying  : centos-release-scl-2-3.el7.centos.noarch                     1/2
  Verifying  : centos-release-scl-rh-2-3.el7.centos.noarch                  2/2

Installed:
  centos-release-scl.noarch 0:2-3.el7.centos

Dependency Installed:
  centos-release-scl-rh.noarch 0:2-3.el7.centos

Complete!

[root@guestshell admin]# dnf install -y rh-python36 | tail
warning: /var/cache/dnf/x86_64/7/centos-sclo-rh/packages/rh-python36-2.0-1.el7.x86_64.rpm:
 Header V4 RSA/SHA1 Signature, key ID f2ee9d55: NOKEY
http://centos.sonn.com/7.7.1908/os/x86_64/Packages/groff-base-1.22.2-8.el7.x86_64.rpm:
[Errno 12] Timeout on
http://centos.sonn.com/7.7.1908/os/x86_64/Packages/groff-base-1.22.2-8.el7.x86_64.rpm: (28,
 'Operation too slow. Less than 1000 bytes/sec transferred the last 30 seconds')
Trying other mirror.
Importing GPG key 0xF2EE9D55:
 Userid     : "CentOS SoftwareCollections SIG
(https://wiki.centos.org/SpecialInterestGroup/SCLo) <security@centos.org>"
 Fingerprint: c4db d535 b1fb ba14 f8ba 64a8 4eb8 4e71 f2ee 9d55
 Package    : centos-release-scl-rh-2-3.el7.centos.noarch (@extras)
 From       : /etc/pki/rpm-gpg/RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-SIG-SCLo
  rh-python36-python-libs.x86_64 0:3.6.9-2.el7
  rh-python36-python-pip.noarch 0:9.0.1-2.el7
  rh-python36-python-setuptools.noarch 0:36.5.0-1.el7
  rh-python36-python-virtualenv.noarch 0:15.1.0-2.el7
  rh-python36-runtime.x86_64 0:2.0-1.el7
  scl-utils-build.x86_64 0:20130529-19.el7
  xml-common.noarch 0:0.6.3-39.el7
  zip.x86_64 0:3.0-11.el7

Complete!
```

Using SCL, it is possible to create an interactive bash session with Python 3's environment variables automatically setup.

Note The root user is not needed to use the SCL Python installation.

```
[admin@guestshell ~]$ scl enable rh-python36 bash
[admin@guestshell ~]$ python3
Python 3.6.9 (default, Nov 11 2019, 11:24:16)
[GCC 4.8.5 20150623 (Red Hat 4.8.5-39)] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
```

The Python SCL installation also provides the pip utility.

```
[admin@guestshell ~]$ pip3 install requests --user
Collecting requests
  Downloading
```

```
https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/51/bd/23c926cd341ea6b7dd0b2a00aba99ae0f828be89d72b2190f27c11d4b7fb/requests-2.22.0-py2.py3-none-any.whl
 (57kB)
    100% |################################| 61kB 211kB/s
Collecting idna<2.9,>=2.5 (from requests)
  Downloading
https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/14/2c/cd551d81dbe15200be1cf41cd03869a46fe7226e7450af7a6545bfc474c9/idna-2.8-py2.py3-none-any.whl
 (58kB)
    100% |################################| 61kB 279kB/s
Collecting chardet<3.1.0,>=3.0.2 (from requests)
  Downloading
https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/bc/a9/01ffebfb562e4274b6487b4bb1ddec7ca55ec7510b22e4c51f14098443b8/chardet-3.0.4-py2.py3-none-any.whl
 (133kB)
    100% |################################| 143kB 441kB/s
Collecting certifi>=2017.4.17 (from requests)
  Downloading
https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/b9/63/df50ac98ea0eb006c55a399c3bf1db9da7b5a24de7890bc9cfd5dd9e99/certifi-2019.11.28-py2.py3-none-any.whl
 (156kB)
    100% |################################| 163kB 447kB/s
Collecting urllib3!=1.25.0,!=1.25.1,<1.26,>=1.21.1 (from requests)
  Downloading
https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/e8/74/6e4f91745020f967d09332bb2b8b9b10090957334692eb88ea4afe91b77f/urllib3-1.25.8-py2.py3-none-any.whl
 (125kB)
    100% |################################| 133kB 656kB/s
Installing collected packages: idna, chardet, certifi, urllib3, requests
Successfully installed certifi-2019.11.28 chardet-3.0.4 idna-2.8 requests-2.22.0
urllib3-1.25.8
You are using pip version 9.0.1, however version 20.0.2 is available.
You should consider upgrading via the 'pip install --upgrade pip' command.
[admin@guestshell ~]$ python3
Python 3.6.9 (default, Nov 11 2019, 11:24:16)
[GCC 4.8.5 20150623 (Red Hat 4.8.5-39)] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import requests
>>> requests.get("https://cisco.com")
<Response [200]>
```

The default Python 2 installation can be used alongside the SCL Python installation.

```
[admin@guestshell ~]$ which python3
/opt/rh/rh-python36/root/usr/bin/python3
[admin@guestshell ~]$ which python2
/bin/python2
[admin@guestshell ~]$ python2
Python 2.7.5 (default, Aug  7 2019, 00:51:29)
[GCC 4.8.5 20150623 (Red Hat 4.8.5-39)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print 'Hello world!'
Hello world!
```

Software Collections makes it possible to install multiple versions of the same RPM on a system. In this case, it is possible to install Python 3.5 in addition to Python 3.6.

```
[admin@guestshell ~]$ sudo dnf install -y rh-python35 | tail
Dependency Installed:
  rh-python35-python.x86_64 0:3.5.1-13.el7
  rh-python35-python-devel.x86_64 0:3.5.1-13.el7
  rh-python35-python-libs.x86_64 0:3.5.1-13.el7
  rh-python35-python-pip.noarch 0:7.1.0-2.el7
  rh-python35-python-setuptools.noarch 0:18.0.1-2.el7
  rh-python35-python-virtualenv.noarch 0:13.1.2-2.el7
  rh-python35-runtime.x86_64 0:2.0-2.el7

Complete!

[admin@guestshell ~]$ scl enable rh-python35 python3
```

```
Python 3.5.1 (default, May 29 2019, 15:41:33)
[GCC 4.8.5 20150623 (Red Hat 4.8.5-36)] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
```

Note Creating new interactive bash sessions when multiple Python versions are installed in SCL can cause an issue where the libpython shared object file cannot be loaded. There is a workaround where you can use the **source scl_source enable** *python-installation* command to properly set up the environment in the current bash session.

The default Guest Shell storage capacity is not sufficient to install Python 3. Use the **guestshell resize rootfs** *size-in-MB* command to increase the size of the file system. Typically, setting the rootfs size to 550 MB is sufficient.

Installing RPMs in the Guest Shell

The /etc/dnf.repos.d/CentOS-Base.repo file is set up to use the CentOS mirror list by default. Follow instructions in that file if changes are needed.

Dnf can be pointed to one or more repositories at any time by modifying the `yumrepo_x86_64.repo` file or by adding a new `.repo` file in the `repos.d` directory.

For applications to be installed inside Guest Shell 2.x, go to the CentOS 7 repo at http://mirror.centos.org/centos/7/os/x86_64/Packages/.

Dnf resolves the dependencies and installs all the required packages.

```
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ sudo chvrf management dnf -y install glibc.i686
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror
Loading mirror speeds from cached hostfile
* base: bay.uchicago.edu
* extras: pubmirrors.dal.corespace.com
* updates: mirrors.cmich.edu
Resolving Dependencies
"-->" Running transaction check
"--->" Package glibc.i686 0:2.17-78.el7 will be installed
"-->" Processing Dependency: libfreebl3.so(NSSRAWHASH_3.12.3) for package:
glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686
"-->" Processing Dependency: libfreebl3.so for package: glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686
"-->" Running transaction check
"--->" Package nss-softokn-freebl.i686 0:3.16.2.3-9.el7 will be installed
"-->" Finished Dependency Resolution

Dependencies Resolved

================================================================================
Package Arch Version Repository Size
================================================================================
Installing:
glibc i686 2.17-78.el7 base 4.2 M
Installing for dependencies:
nss-softokn-freebl i686 3.16.2.3-9.el7 base 187 k

Transaction Summary
================================================================================
Install 1 Package (+1 Dependent package)

Total download size: 4.4 M
Installed size: 15 M
```

```
Downloading packages:
Delta RPMs disabled because /usr/bin/applydeltarpm not installed.
(1/2): nss-softokn-freebl-3.16.2.3-9.el7.i686.rpm | 187 kB 00:00:25
(2/2): glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686.rpm | 4.2 MB 00:00:30
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Total 145 kB/s | 4.4 MB 00:00:30
Running transaction check
Running transaction test
Transaction test succeeded
Running transaction
Installing : nss-softokn-freebl-3.16.2.3-9.el7.i686 1/2
Installing : glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686 2/2
error: lua script failed: [string "%triggerin(glibc-common-2.17-78.el7.x86_64)"]:1: attempt
 to compare number with nil
Non-fatal "<"unknown">" scriptlet failure in rpm package glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686
Verifying : glibc-2.17-78.el7.i686 1/2
Verifying : nss-softokn-freebl-3.16.2.3-9.el7.i686 2/2

Installed:
glibc.i686 0:2.17-78.el7

Dependency Installed:
nss-softokn-freebl.i686 0:3.16.2.3-9.el7

Complete!
```

Note When more space is needed in the Guest Shell root file system for installing or running packages, the **guestshell resize roofs** *size-in-MB* command is used to increase the size of the file system.

Note Some open source software packages from the repository might not install or run as expected in the Guest Shell as a result of restrictions that have been put into place to protect the integrity of the host system.

Security Posture for

Kernel Vulnerability Patches

Cisco responds to pertinent Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) with platform updates that address known vulnerabilities.

ASLR and X-Space Support

Cisco NX-OS supports the use of Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR) and Executable Space Protection (X-Space) for runtime defense. The software in Cisco-signed packages make use of this capability. If other software is installed on the system, it is recommended that it be built using a host OS and development toolchain that supports these technologies. Doing so reduces the potential attack surface that the software presents to potential intruders.

Root-User Restrictions

As a best practice for developing secure code, it is recommend running applications with the least privilege needed to accomplish the assigned task. To help prevent unintended accesses, software added into the Guest Shell should follow this best practice.

All processes within are subject to restrictions imposed by reduced Linux capabilities. If your application must perform operations that require root privileges, restrict the use of the root account to the smallest set of operations that absolutely requires root access, and impose other controls such as a hard limit on the amount of time that the application can run in that mode.

The set of Linux capabilities that are dropped for root within follow:

Resource Management

A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack attempts to make a machine or network resource unavailable to its intended users. Misbehaving or malicious application code can cause DoS as the result of over-consumption of connection bandwidth, disk space, memory, and other resources. The host provides resource-management features that ensure fair allocation of resources on the host.

Guest File System Access Restrictions

Secure IPC

Applications in a guest shell or virtual service can be made more integrated with the host by using Cisco onePK services. The applications communicate with the host network element over TIPC. Applications within various containers are not allowed to communicate with each other over TIPC, they are only allowed to talk to the host. This prevents issues of one container from spoofing that it is where the Cisco onePK services are running. Applications in containers are also not allowed to listen on TIPC ports.

To ensure that only know virtual services can communicate with the host, a unique identifier for each virtual service is created when it is enabled and verified at the time when the onePK communication channel is established.

The system also limits the rate at which an application in an individual virtual service can send messages to the host. This behavior prevents a misbehaving application from sending messages frequently enough to prevent normal operation of the host or to block other virtual services on the same host from communicating with the host.

Managing the Guest Shell

The following are commands to manage the Guest Shell:

Table 1: Guest Shell CLI Commands

Commands	Description

Commands	Description
guestshell enable {**package** [*guest shell OVA file* | *rootfs-file-URI*]}	• When *guest shell OVA file* is specified: Installs and activates the Guest Shell using the OVA that is embedded in the system image. Installs and activates the Guest Shell using the specified software package (OVA file) or the embedded package from the system image (when no package is specified). Initially, Guest Shell packages are only available by being embedded in the system image. When the Guest Shell is already installed, this command enables the installed Guest Shell. Typically this is used after a **guestshell disable** command. • When *rootfs-file-URI* is specified: Imports a Guest Shell **rootfs** when the Guest Shell is in a destroyed state. This command brings up the Guest Shell with the specified package.
guestshell export rootfs package *destination-file-URI*	Exports a Guest Shell **rootfs** file to a local URI (bootflash, USB1, etc.).
guestshell disable	Shuts down and disables the Guest Shell.

Commands	Description
guestshell upgrade {**package** [*guest shell OVA file* | *rootfs-file-URI*]}	• When *guest shell OVA file* is specified: Deactivates and upgrades the Guest Shell using the specified software package (OVA file) or the embedded package from the system image (if no package is specified). Initially Guest Shell packages are only available by being embedded in the system image. The current rootfs for the Guest Shell is replaced with the rootfs in the software package. The Guest Shell does not make use of secondary filesystems that persist across an upgrade. Without persistent secondary filesystems, a **guestshell destroy** command followed by a **guestshell enable** command could also be used to replace the rootfs. When an upgrade is successful, the Guest Shell is activated. You are prompted for a confirmation prior to carrying out the upgrade command. • When *rootfs-file-URI* is specified: Imports a Guest Shell **rootfs** file when the Guest Shell is already installed. This command removes the existing Guest Shell and installs the specified package.
guestshell reboot	Deactivates the Guest Shell and then reactivates it. You are prompted for a confirmation prior to carrying out the reboot command. **Note** This is the equivalent of a **guestshell disable** command followed by a **guestshell enable** command in exec mode. This is useful when processes inside the Guest Shell have been stopped and need to be restarted. The **run guestshell** command relies on `sshd` running in the Guest Shell. If the command does not work, the `sshd` process may have been inadvertently stopped. Performing a reboot of the Guest Shell from the NX-OS CLI allows it to restart and restore the command.

Commands	Description
guestshell destroy	Deactivates and uninstalls the Guest Shell. All resources associated with the Guest Shell are returned to the system. The **show virtual-service global** command indicates when these resources become available. Issuing this command results in a prompt for a confirmation prior to carrying out the destroy command.
guestshell **run guestshell**	Connects to the Guest Shell that is already running with a shell prompt. No username/password is required.
guestshell run *command* **run guestshell** *command*	Executes a Linux/UNIX command within the context of the Guest Shell environment. After execution of the command you are returned to the switch prompt.
guestshell resize [**cpu** | **memory** | **rootfs**]	Changes the allotted resources available for the Guest Shell. The changes take effect the next time the Guest Shell is enabled or rebooted. **Note** Resize values are cleared when the **guestshell destroy** command is used.
guestshell sync	On systems that have active and standby supervisors, this command synchronizes the Guest Shell contents from the active supervisor to the standby supervisor. The network-admin issues this command when the Guest Shell rootfs has been set up to a point that they would want the same rootfs used on the standby supervisor when it becomes the active supervisor. If this command is not used, the Guest Shell is freshly installed when the standby supervisor transitions to an active role using the Guest Shell package available on that supervisor.
virtual-service reset force	In the event that the guestshell or virtual-services cannot be managed, even after a system reload, the reset command is used to force the removal of the Guest Shell and all virtual-services. The system needs to be reloaded for the cleanup to happen. No Guest Shell or additional virtual-services can be installed or enabled after issuing this command until after the system has been reloaded. You are prompted for a confirmation prior to initiating the reset.

Note Administrative privileges are necessary to enable/disable and to gain access to the Guest Shell environment.

Note The Guest Shell is implemented as a Linux container (LXC) on the host system. On NX-OS devices, LXCs are installed and managed with the virtual-service commands. The Guest Shell appears in the virtual-service commands as a virtual service named `guestshell+`.

Disabling the Guest Shell

The **guestshell disable** command shuts down and disables the Guest Shell.

When the Guest Shell is disabled and the system is reloaded, the Guest Shell remains disabled.

Example:

```
switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
Name                   Status          Package Name
------------------------------------------------------------
guestshell+            Activated        guestshe11.ova
switch# guestshell disable
You will not be able to access your guest shell if it is disabled. Are you sure you want
to disable the guest shell? (y/n) [n) y

2014 Jul 30 19:47:23 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-ACTIVATION_STATE: Deactivating virtual
service 'guestshell+'
2014 Jul 30 18:47:29 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-ACTIVATION_STATE: Successfully deactivated
 virtual service 'guestshell+'
switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
Name                   Status                   Package Name
guestshell+            Deactivated              guestshell.ova
```

Note The Guest Shell is reactivated with the **guestshell enable** command.

Destroying the Guest Shell

The **guestshell destroy** command uninstalls the Guest Shell and its artifacts. The command does not remove the Guest Shell OVA.

When the Guest Shell is destroyed and the system is reloaded, the Guest Shell remains destroyed.

```
switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
Name               Status          Package Name
------------------------------------------------
guestshell+        Deactivated     guestshell.ova

switch# guestshell destroy
```

```
You are about to destroy the guest shell and all of its contents. Be sure to save your work.
 Are you sure you want to continue? (y/n) [n] y
2014 Jul 30 18:49:10 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-INSTALL_STATE: Destroying virtual service
 'guestshell+'
2014 Jul 30 18:49:10 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-INSTALL_STATE: Successfully destroyed
virtual service 'guestshell +'

switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
```

Note The Guest Shell can be re-enabled with the **guestshell enable** command.

Note In the Cisco NX-OS software, the **oneP** feature is automatically enabled for local access when a container is installed. Since the Guest Shell is a container, the **oneP** feature is automatically started.

If you do not want to use the Guest Shell, you can remove it with the **guestshell destroy** command. Once the Guest Shell has been removed, it remains removed for subsequent reloads. This means that when the Guest Shell container has been removed and the switch is reloaded, the Guest Shell container is not automatically started.

Enabling the Guest Shell

The **guestshell enable** command installs the Guest Shell from a Guest Shell software package. By default, the package embedded in the system image is used for the installation. The command is also used to reactivate the Guest Shell if it has been disabled.

When the Guest Shell is enabled and the system is reloaded, the Guest Shell remains enabled.

Example:

```
switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
switch# guestshell enable
2014 Jul 30 18:50:27 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-INSTALL_STATE: Installing virtual service
'guestshell+'
2014 Jul 30 18;50;42 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-INSTALL_STATE: Install success virtual
service 'guestshell+'; Activating

2014 Jul 30 18:50:42 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-ACTIVATION_STATE: Activating virtual service
 'guestshell+'
2014 Jul 30 18:51:16 switch %$ VDC-1 %$ %VMAN-2-ACTIVATION_STATE: Successfully activated
virtual service 'guestshell+'

switch# show virtual-service list
Virtual Service List:
Name                   Status             Package Name
guestshell+            Activated          guestshell.ova
```

Verifying Virtual Service and Guest Shell Information

You can verify virtual service and Guest Shell information with the following commands:

Command	Description

show virtual-service global
`switch# show virtual-service global`
 	
`Virtual Service Global State and Virtualization Limits:`
 	
`Infrastructure version : 1.11`
`Total virtual services installed : 1`
`Total virtual services activated : 1`
 	
`Machine types supported : LXC`
`Machine types disabled : KVM`
 	
`Maximum VCPUs per virtual service : 1`
 	
`Resource virtualization limits:`
`Name Quota Committed Available`
`---------------------------------------------------------------------`
`system CPU (%) 20 1 19`
`memory (MB) 3840 256 3584`
`bootflash (MB) 8192 200 7992`
`switch#`
	Displays the global state and limits for virtual services.

show virtual-service list
 	
`switch# show virtual-service list *`
 	
`Virtual Service List:`
 	
`Name Status Package Name`
`---------------------------------------------------------------------`
`guestshell+ Activated guestshell.ova`
	Displays a summary of the virtual services, the status of the virtual services, and installed software packages.

Command	Description

show guestshell detail
 	
`switch# show guestshell detail`
`Virtual service guestshell+ detail`
`  State                 : Activated`
`  Package information`
`    Name                : guestshell.ova`
`    Path                : /isan/bin/guestshell.ova`
`    Application`
`      Name              : GuestShell`
`      Installed version : 3.0(0.0)`
`      Description       : Cisco Systems Guest Shell`
`    Signing`
`      Key type          : Cisco key`
`      Method            : SHA-1`
`    Licensing`
`      Name              : None`
`      Version           : None`
`  Resource reservation`
`    Disk                : 400 MB`
`    Memory              : 256 MB`
`    CPU                 : 1% system CPU`
 	
`  Attached devices`
`    Type              Name        Alias`
`    ---------------------------------------------`
`    Disk              _rootfs`
`    Disk              /cisco/core`
`    Serial/shell`
`    Serial/aux`
`    Serial/Syslog                 serial2`
`    Serial/Trace                  serial3`
	Displays details about the guestshell package (such as version, signing resources, and devices).

Persistently Starting Your Application From the Guest Shell

Your application should have a `systemd / systemctl` service file that gets installed in `/usr/lib/systemd/system/`*`application_name`*`.service`. This service file should have the following general format:

```
[Unit]
Description=Put a short description of your application here

[Service]
ExecStart=Put the command to start your application here
Restart=always
RestartSec=10s

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Note To run `systemd` as a specific user, add `User=<username>` to the `[Service]` section of your service.

Procedure for Persistently Starting Your Application from the Guest Shell

Procedure

Step 1 Install your application service file that you created above into `/usr/lib/systemd/system/`*`application_name`*`.service`

Step 2 Start your application with **systemctl start** *application_name*

Step 3 Verify that your application is running with **systemctl status** -l *application_name*

Step 4 Enable your application to be restarted on reload with **systemctl enable** *application_name*

Step 5 Verify that your application is running with **systemctl status** -l *application_name*

An Example Application in the Guest Shell

The following example demonstrates an application in the Guest Shell:

```
root@guestshell guestshell]# cat /etc/init.d/hello.sh
#!/bin/bash

OUTPUTFILE=/tmp/hello

rm -f $OUTPUTFILE
while true
do
    echo $(date) >> $OUTPUTFILE
    echo 'Hello World' >> $OUTPUTFILE
    sleep 10
done
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
[root@guestshell system]# cat /usr/lib/systemd/system/hello.service
[Unit]
Description=Trivial "hello world" example daemon

[Service]
ExecStart=/etc/init.d/hello.sh &
Restart=always
RestartSec=10s

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
[root@guestshell system]#
[root@guestshell system]# systemctl start hello
[root@guestshell system]# systemctl enable hello
[root@guestshell system]# systemctl status -l hello
hello.service - Trivial "hello world" example daemon
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/hello.service; enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Sun 2015-09-27 18:31:51 UTC; 10s ago
 Main PID: 355 (hello.sh)
   CGroup: /system.slice/hello.service
```

```
            ##355 /bin/bash /etc/init.d/hello.sh &
            ##367 sleep 10

Sep 27 18:31:51 guestshell hello.sh[355]: Executing: /etc/init.d/hello.sh &
[root@guestshell system]#
[root@guestshell guestshell]# exit
exit
[guestshell@guestshell ~]$ exit
logout
switch# reload
This command will reboot the system. (y/n)?  [n] y
```

After reload

```
[root@guestshell guestshell]# ps -ef | grep hello
root        20     1  0 18:37 ?        00:00:00 /bin/bash /etc/init.d/hello.sh &
root       123   108  0 18:38 pts/4    00:00:00 grep --color=auto hello
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
[root@guestshell guestshell]# cat /tmp/hello
Sun Sep 27 18:38:03 UTC 2015
Hello World
Sun Sep 27 18:38:13 UTC 2015
Hello World
Sun Sep 27 18:38:23 UTC 2015
Hello World
Sun Sep 27 18:38:33 UTC 2015
Hello World
Sun Sep 27 18:38:43 UTC 2015
Hello World
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
```

Running under `systemd / systemctl`, your application is automatically restarted if it dies (or if you kill it). The Process ID is originally 226. After killing the application, it is automatically restarted with a Process ID of 257.

```
[root@guestshell guestshell]# ps -ef | grep hello
root       226     1  0 19:02 ?        00:00:00 /bin/bash /etc/init.d/hello.sh &
root       254   116  0 19:03 pts/4    00:00:00 grep --color=auto hello
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
[root@guestshell guestshell]# kill -9 226
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
[root@guestshell guestshell]# ps -ef | grep hello
root       257     1  0 19:03 ?        00:00:00 /bin/bash /etc/init.d/hello.sh &
root       264   116  0 19:03 pts/4    00:00:00 grep --color=auto hello
[root@guestshell guestshell]#
```